

sportscene

2024 | Vol. 1

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MACCABI USA

AN EYE TOWARD LONDON



Maccabi USA is heading across the pond as U16 and U18 athletes compete in the European Maccabi Youth Games from July 28 - August 6, 2024. This will mark just the third set of Maccabi Games in the United Kingdom and the first since 1999.



And join us in **ISRAEL** next July for



President & CEO's Message

Maccabi USA shows up.

It was true in 1932 at the first Maccabiah Games. It was true in 1950 at the first Maccabiah after the Holocaust. It was true in 2001 at the Maccabiah held during the start of the Second Intifada.

And it was true this past December when our 600+ strong delegation arrived in Argentina for the 15th Pan Am Maccabi Games in the wake of the October 7th attacks on Israel. As the shock of those attacks slowly sunk in over the days and weeks that followed, the Maccabi Movement began to wonder about the fate of the Pan Am Games, scheduled to take place just 11 weeks later. Would the Games still be held? Should they? Would Israel possibly still send a delegation?

Maccabi USA made it clear to the organizers – in both Argentina and Israel – that if the Games were on, Maccabi USA would be there. As long as we had assurances from our security partners in Argentina, the US, and Israel, how could we not?

Family shows up for one another, during joyous times and sorrowful ones, and the Pan Am Games were a powerful mix of both. We felt joy in being reunited as a Jewish People so soon after October 7th and a deeper sadness that many of our sisters and brothers continued to be held hostage and so many more were in harm's way.

It was this mix of emotions that stirred within all in attendance at Movistar Arena in Buenos Aires or those watching the livestream at home when the 70+ members of the Israel delegation – made up mostly of athletes and coaches from the South and directly impacted by the attacks – marched into the Opening Ceremony draped in the Blue and White flag of Israel and holding pictures of loved ones lost and held captive. That night, and throughout the entire ten days of the Games, we had a first-hand reminder of the power of sports to provide connectedness and meaning for the Jewish People.

Just as we did a few months ago in Argentina, so too will Maccabi USA once again show up a few months from now alongside athletes from Israel and around the world for the European Maccabi Youth Games in London. And, as we look ahead to these next Games in Europe, we

are preparing to show up in our biggest way ever at next summer's Maccabiah in Israel. We anticipate a delegation approaching 1400 athletes, coaches, and other volunteers, which would be our largest-ever to a Maccabiah. If so, it will be a fitting show of community and solidarity as the Maccabiah will perhaps be the largest gathering of the Diaspora to take place in Israel since October 7th. It will certainly be among the most meaningful Games in the 90+ year history of the Maccabiah.

And we hope you will strongly consider being there with us either as a member of our delegation or a member of our supporters mission. If that's not feasible, please consider making a contribution to help make Maccabi USA's in-person show of support possible!

We showed up in 1932 and every Games since. And we'll show up in 2025. A Jewish tradition and a Maccabi USA tradition!

Chazak Ve-ematz! Be Courageous and Strong!

Jeff Burtz Marshall Eylon



M25 Co-Chairs' Message



We would like to share with you our excitement and commitment to Maccabiah 2025. Tryouts for teams heading to Israel are underway and began with rugby hopefuls gathering in New Orleans in March. Other sports will continue evaluating candidates this summer and into the fall for what we hope will be Maccabi USA's largest delegation ever. In addition to identifying athletes for M25, we are also well into the process of choosing and appointing our chairs, managers, and coaches.

We are also proud to announce that our Israel Connect Program will be based in Jerusalem for the very first time. This will give our athletes, media students, coaches, and staff a unique cultural experience in The Holy City where we will be staying during our first week in Israel.

We have had several Zoom calls with our Israeli partners at Maccabi World Union where the focus has been on solidarity with Israel and our Jewish pride as an American delegation. We are strong in our commitment to Maccabiah 2025, especially since the horrific attacks of October 7th. We will stand with Jewish athletes from 80 countries to show strength in the face of adversity. These Games represent our resilience as athletes and of the Jewish people globally so please come join us in Israel in July 2025!

General Chairs Maccabiah 2025,

Tonja Magerman **Debbie Adams**



Get To Know Our M25 General Chairs:



Tonja Magerman started her involvement as a parent watching her son play tennis at the Pan American Games in Chile in 2003. Her passion for coaching and working with young athletes led her to 20+ years of volunteering with Maccabi USA.

Maccabi USA Board Vice President (2017-Present)
Vice Chair – Maccabiah (2022)
General Chair – Pan American Maccabi Games (2019)
Israel Connect Chair – Maccabiah (2017)
General Chair – European Maccabi Games (2015)
Chair – Open Women's Field Hockey (2007-2020)
Field Hockey Head Coach – Maccabiah (2013) & Pan American Maccabi Games (2015)



Debbie Adams has competed in the Maccabiah five times and served in numerous leadership positions including golf coach at the Maccabiah in 2017.

Maccabi USA Board Vice President (2017-Present)
Maccabiah Participant (1989, 1993, 2009, 2013, 2017)
Vice Chair – Maccabiah (2022)
General Chair – European Maccabi Games (2019)
Golf Co-Chair & Coach – Maccabiah (2017)
Manager – Maccabiah (2017)
Golf Chair – European Maccabi Games (2011)
Golf Co-Chair – Palm Beach Golf Tournament

Maccabi USA brought more than 1,400 members to Israel for the 21st Maccabiah in 2022 and we intend to make this the largest U.S. delegation ever. Scan this QR code for more information about applying for M25 and team tryouts.





LONDON

GAMES PREVIEW

Facts/Figures

271,900

Number of Jews living in England & Wales making it the 5th largest population in the world and 2nd largest in Europe after France (UK Census - 2021).

53.6%

Percentage of England's Jewish population living in Greater London.



Benjamin Disraeli

Served as Britain's Prime Minister twice (1868, 1874-80) and is the country's first, and only, Jewish Prime Minister to date.



300+

Languages Spoken

More than any city in the world.

325+

Public Libraries



800+

Bookshops

857

Art Galleries

Including 3 of the top 10 ranked in the world.



1.2 SQ. MILES

Size of the City of London, making it the smallest city in England with 7,500 residents. (Greater London covers 606 sq. miles with a population of 8.7 million)

8.3 MILLION+

Trees in London Making it the world's largest urban forest.

4



Did You Know?

“Big Ben” is not the name of the iconic tower in London, but instead the nickname of the great clock inside Elizabeth Tower at the Palace of Westminster.



London Chairs' Message

We are excited and looking forward to the European Maccabi Youth Games (EMYG) in London this summer! We are on track for a delegation of about 110 athletes plus staff and volunteers. The games and activities will take place July 28 - August 6, 2024, just outside of Central London. There will be an amazing day of Jewish education the day after arrival followed by an opening celebration. Our Maccabi GB hosts are planning events and parties created by young people for young people to minimize formality and maximize fun!

EMYG SPORTS:

5v5 Basketball (M)

3v3 Basketball (M)

Field Hockey* (F)

Futsal (M)

Soccer* (M/F)

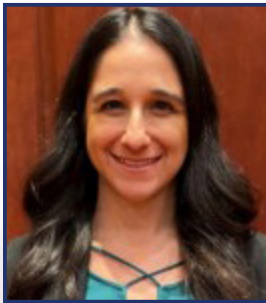
Tennis (M/F)

Age Divisions:

U16 (2008-2009), U18 (2006-2007),
U18 (2006-2009)*



Scott Gelb
USA Team General Chair



Summer Bloom
USA Team Vice Chair

It's not too late for U16 & U18 athletes and their families to join our delegation heading to London this summer (July 28-August 6).

Visit maccabiusa.com or scan this QR code for more information.



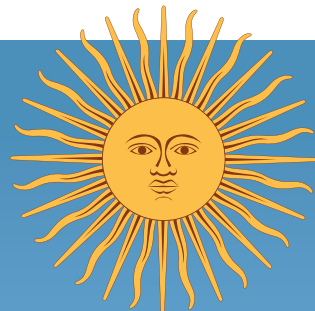
JULY	JULY	JULY	JULY	AUGUST
28 DEPART FOR LONDON (JFK AND LAX)	29 ARRIVALS AND PRACTICE DAY	30 EDUCATION DAY AND OPENING CELEBRATION	31 COMPETITION	1 COMPETITION
AUGUST	AUGUST	AUGUST	AUGUST	AUGUST
2 COMPETITION AND KABBALAT SHABBAT	3 SHABBAT	4 COMPETITION	5 COMPETITION	6 CHECK OUT AND RETURN HOME

An Argentina Audit



Buenos Aires 2023

Maccabi USA delivered more than 650 athletes, coaches, staff, and media members to Buenos Aires, Argentina, for the 15th Pan American Maccabi Games this past winter. The delegation returned with 124 medals, a renewed sense of Jewish pride, and a lifetime of memories from its South American excursion.



Medal Count

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Argentina	52	45	47	144
USA	39	39	46	124
Brazil	27	24	13	64
Mexico	21	20	28	69
Australia	6	8	12	26



Pan-Am Co-Chairs' Message

It's only been a few months since we said goodbye to Argentina and returned home with great memories of the 15th Pan American Maccabi Games. We knew these were going to be special Games, but we could never have anticipated how truly meaningful they would be. From touchdown to takeoff and every minute in between, our delegation of nearly 660 strong made us so proud to be co-chairs of the U.S. Delegation. Everywhere we turned we saw the red, white, and blue represented with care, thoughtfulness, and pride.

While sports were integral to our journey, they may have taken a back seat to the ultimate power and meaning of these Games. From our delegation-wide welcome event at the Embassy hosted by Ambassador Marc Stanley and his wife Wendy, to our encounters with the inspiring Israeli delegation, to the competition and camaraderie of the entire Games featuring the largest multi-day gathering of Jews since the atrocities of October 7th, this was truly one of the most special and important Maccabi events that we have ever participated in.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the entire professional team, managers, coaches, volunteers, medical team, and everyone who had a role, no matter how big or how small, in the success of this event. We understand that choosing to be part of a Jewish event in challenging times was not a straightforward decision. Thank you for making the effort to be with us and for being such an integral part of the Maccabi family!

As you all know, the European Maccabi Youth Games in London and the 2025 Maccabiah in Israel are ahead of us. We look forward to sharing many more Maccabi moments in the future.

Sincerely yours,



Marc Backal

Co-Chairs - Pan American Maccabi Games



Deb Lichtenfeld



Meet Our New *Shlichah* - Lior Witlin

Dear Maccabi USA community,

Six months ago, with great excitement, I packed up my husband, Yochai, along with 6 suitcases, and embarked on a new adventure - "*Shlichut*". So, it is so nice to meet you all. My name is Lior, and I am the central Maccabi World Union "*Shlichah*" (emissary), based at Maccabi USA. As part of my role, I am responsible for the work and activities of MWU emissaries in North America and for the ongoing collaborations with partner organizations in the movement, such as BBYO, BZD, JCCA, and of course, Maccabi USA. In addition to that, I am also an integral part of the team here in the offices in Philadelphia, working in the field of education within the world of sports.

New beginnings are never easy. But this one was exceptionally complicated. Two weeks after we landed, even before we found our home and before we could grasp what was happening around us, October 7th arrived. We felt the ground shaking beneath our feet, and all I wanted was to catch the next flight home, back to Israel. Like every Israeli, my husband and I knew people who were killed or abducted. It was an unbearable experience, one that persists to this day. Alongside the grief, confusion, and great frustration, I also found solace and slowly, a sense of a new home and family emerged - the Maccabi USA family.

Everyone I met along the way, whether they were my colleagues or athletes and coaches I met at the Pan American Games in Argentina, everyone, without exception, embraced me and made me feel that this was now my home away from home. During these months, I got to know Maccabi USA, learned about the various sports branches, and about the games. I got to visit all MWU emissaries in Washington DC, Baltimore, Houston, and Florida and got to know their communities.

Those of you who read our weekly newsletter surely know the column I write every Friday. That column, which I was sure would focus on Israeli innovation, developments in Israeli culture, and education, instead found me writing anew every week about the war in my homeland and of course, about our hostages, taken from their homes during the joy of Simchat Torah, and we're now at Passover.



October 7th was undoubtedly the darkest day in the history of the State of Israel. I truly hope that from here we can grow, as a nation and a society.

I want to take this opportunity to thank every one of you for your unwavering support for Israel and your warm embrace. Please remember the hostages and keep them in your prayers.

Yours sincerely,

Lior



Maccabi USA Alumni News

Mazel Tov to...

Jeff Bukantz welcomed the birth of his grandson **Jacob Reid** on November 22, 2023. (Son to Cassie & Michael and brother to his big sister Ivy.)



Jeff Bukantz

Brian Schiff received the Marty Riger Outstanding Jewish Coach of the Year Award and **Alex Sternberg** was inducted at the Jewish Sports Heritage Association Induction Ceremony on April 7, 2024.

Rick Rothman was selected by USA Track & Field as Head Coach of Men's Team for 2024 World Athletics Cross Country Championships.

Allison Edelstein will marry Samuel Dusenbery in Deep Creek Lake, Maryland, on June 22, 2024.

Gayle Edelstein received her Masters Degree in Behavioral Neuroscience from the University of Connecticut and is continuing her studies for her PHD.

Josh Hurwitz married **Emily Apgar** on October 28, 2023.

Kai Rae Menor was born on May 10, 2023. (Son of CJ Pono Menor & Natalie Hastings Edell Menor).

Seth Goldberg was honored on March 3, 2024, as Man of the Year by Congregation Beth Judea's Men's Club of Long Grove, IL.

Members of the Maccabi USA family we have lost: Z"l

Alan Magerman passed away on March 2, 2024, at the age of 88. The former Maccabi USA Board member and his late wife Philly's were longtime supporters of MUSA and the Endowment Fund and served as Co-Chairs of the 2001 Maccabiah Israel Connect Program. Alan had a love and devotion to his family, Israel, and sports including horse racing, the Phillies, and Villanova basketball.



Alan Magerman

Neal Sher passed away on December 16, 2023, at the age of 67. The founder and owner of WoodSmyth Chicago was a world-class gymnast and 10th Maccabiah silver medalist.



Neal Sher

Josh Wexler passed away on March 13, 2024, at the age of 57 after a 4-year battle with cancer. A former point guard at Cornell University, Josh competed on several Maccabi USA basketball teams in both the Open and Masters division.



Josh Wexler

Samantha Lazaruk passed away on April 2, 2024, from cancer at the age of 77. Samantha is the wife of M25 Water Polo Chair Kirk Lazaruk and they were madly in love for 39 years.

Please share your news with us. Send us updates (maccabi@maccabiusa.com) and we will include in our next communication.



Wishing everyone in the Maccabi USA family a Happy Passover - Chag Sameach

As we celebrate the Festival of Freedom and commemorate our people's journey out of bondage in Mitzrayim (Egypt), so too we pray for and demand the immediate return of all those being held hostage by Hamas.

[#BringThemHomeNow](#)

BRING
THEM HOME
NOW

What will **YOUR JEWISH LEGACY** be?



Thousands of Jewish athletes have been transformed by Maccabi USA since our founding in 1948. While change is constant, sports will forever be an open door to Jewish community and connection to Israel. By joining the new Maccabi USA Legacy Society, you can ensure future generations have access to life-changing Jewish sports experiences that perpetuate our heritage and strengthen emotional ties to our ancestral homeland.

Think you need to be a millionaire or retired to consider leaving a Jewish legacy? Think again.

- 45% of will bequests are created by people younger than 55
- Planned giving allows everyone to be a philanthropist – there is no minimum
- Planned gifts can be structured to provide tax benefits to you and your heirs
- Have children? Provide for them first and leave a remainder to Maccabi USA (it doesn't need to be a pre-determined number)
- Will bequests aren't the only option: Insurance policies and retirement accounts are popular too

Find out how you can leave a legacy by contacting Lindsay Gilbert, checking the legacy box on our donation return form, and/or visiting www.maccabiusa.com/legacysociety.

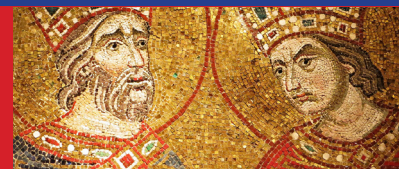
We would like to thank all **FOUNDING MEMBERS** of the Legacy Society who have left or are committed to leaving a gift to Maccabi USA in their estate plan:

Hank Alpert
Ellen and Si Atlas
Marc And Cathy Backal
Robyn Barsky
Howard A. Berger
Steve and Meryl Berliner
Sergio Bicas
Merri and Jay (A) Blumenfeld
Jerry Bornstein, MD
Ray Brenner
Jeff Bukantz (A)
Glen Coblens and Mia Birk
Marshall and Deborah Skolnick Einhorn
Douglas Erenberg

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Libby Newman Feldman
Suzan and Allen Fox
Ben (A) and Heidi Fox
Scott Gelb
Marilyn Glaser
Joy and Gary (A) Gordon
Linda Greenberg (z"l)
Betsy Grossman
Harvey Gutman
Alan Hahn
Richard Hermann
Larry Hirsch (A)
David Hochberg

Marilyn Labkon
Teddy Levitt
Jackie and Nat Levine
Deb Lichtenfeld and Jeff Schulman (A)
Karen Karper
Donald Kent (A) and
Ellen Goosenberg Kent
Daniel and Lisa Kurtz
Irv Levine (z"l) (A)
David Lowenthal (z"l) (A)
Beth and Jed (A) Margolis
Ilene and Mel Miller
Jay Moses (A)
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Leonard Reifman (z"l) (A)
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Taylor Hogge and Robert Spivak (z"l)
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Louise and Bill (z"l) Steerman
Harry Swimmer
Dana and Mark Susson
Frank Velie (A)
David Weissman (z"l)
Steven Wertheim
Toni and Wally Wortman



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

STUART WEITZMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Thank you to Stuart and everyone who helped us meet the matching gift challenges of 2022 and 2023. We now have an endowed scholarship fund of \$8M+ to help our athletes—present and future—get to Israel for a transformational Jewish experience!

\$4,000,000+

Weitzman Family Foundation

\$250,000+

Justine Stamen Arrillaga and John Arrillaga
Aileen and Brian Roberts

\$100,000+

Sloan and Roger Barnett
Bender Foundation, Inc.
Kim and Todd Horberg
The Koum Family Foundation
Howard Levine Foundation-Howard and Julie Levine
Randall and Tamara Winn

\$50,000+

Debbie and Anthony Adams
Chicago Golf Tournament, Co-Chairs
Fred Cohen (z"l) and Mark Fishman
Don Garber
Joel and Tonja Magerman
Marc and Amy Rosenberg

\$25,000+

Backal Family in Memory of Dr. Gary H. Cohen
Blavatnik Family Foundation
Beth and Josh Brodtkin
Jeff Bukantz
Leo David
Leland and Susan Faust
Harry and Leah Gudelsky Foundation
Iris and Igal Hami
Mark Horowitz and Jennifer Koen
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Richard Kriesel-Kilstock
John R. Levene
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Jeanie Milbauer and Bill Knapp
Harvey and Susan Morgan
Nancy and Daniel Neff
The Orender Family
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Dave Rudzinsky
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The Sirovich Family Charitable Foundation

\$10,000+

Natalie and Brett Barth
Steve and Meryl Berliner
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Francis Fraenkel
Ben and Julie Kadish
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Pamela and Bradley Korman
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Foundation of the Milken Families
Erica and Kevin Penn
Dede Robbins
Rick and Susie Schnall
Emily Schoenbaum
Geoffrey Thaw and Nancy Jacobs
Neil and Lisa Wallack

MACCABI USA ENDOWMENTS as of 3/27/24

PATRONS

\$1,000,000+

Aileen & Brian (A) Roberts
Ellen (A) & Samuel (A) Sporn (IC)
Stuart Weitzman Family Foundation (A)

CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE

\$180,000+

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Sloan and Roger Barnett
Talia & Ron Carner
Leah & Ed Frankel
Keith Frankel (A)
Monica & Barry Gurland
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Phyllis Magerman (z"l)
B'nai Mitzvah Endowment
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Taylor Hogge & Robert E. Spivak

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

\$100,000+

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Cecile (z"l) & Lester (z"l) Fein
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Mark S. Goldstein & the
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The Koum Family Foundation

Howard Levine Foundation-Howard
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Randall (A) and Tamara Winn
Dr. Lee Winston & Herman Silver
Charitable Fund/Sam Rabinowitz (z"l)
Toni & Wally Wortman
Selig Zises & Ellyn Bank (A)
16th & 17th U.S. Maccabiah Teams

GIBORIM

\$50,000+

Debbie (A) and Anthony Adams (A)
Kerry & Alan Appelbaum (A)
Sandi & Jerry Bloomberg
Jeffrey Bukantz (A)
The Chaskin Family
Florence & Michael Edelstein
The Fraenkel Family Foundation
Benjamin Frankel Fund
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Mark S. & Marty Goldstein
Shirlee (z"l) & Bill (A) (z"l) Jacobs
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Budd and Nanette Mayer Family Foundation
Michael L. Magerman Family
Tonja & Joel Magerman
Amy & Alan Meltzer
Irene & Melvyn Miller
Robert Pincus (A) & Family

The Rabinovitch Foundation (A)
Estherly & Leonard (A)(z"l) Reifman
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Janet & Ellis (z"l) Shore
Jill & Stu (A) Siegel
Harry & Beatrice Sley Foundation/
Betsy Grossman
Diane & David (z"l) Stern
Marilyn (z"l) & Harry Swimmer

ISRAEL SPORTS AMBASSADOR

\$25,000+

The Abramson Family Endowment
Jan Albert (A) Family Golf Endowment
Ellen & Simon Atlas
Backal Family in Memory of Dr. Gary H. Cohen
Gladys & Lewis (A) Bass & Family
Endowment
Blavatnik Family Foundation
Jerome Bornstein (A) & Morris & Rose
Bornstein Memorial Fund
The Peter Brand Foundation (A)
Ruth & Ray Brenner
Beth and Josh Brodtkin
Barbara & Jim (A) Bronner
Leo David
Marilyn & Simon (z"l) Denenberg
Susan and Leland (A) Faust
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Harry and Leah Gudelsky Foundation
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Ava, Edward & Jordan (A) Mendelson
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Nancy (A) and Daniel Neff
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Wertheim Family Endowment
Patricia & Philip Wexler
Ira & Shirley Yohalem Endowment
Deborah Miller & William Zabel (A)

MAJOR DONORS - 22ND MACCABIAH CYCLE (2023-2025) as of 3/27/24

\$1,000,000+

Stuart Weitzman (A) and Family

\$100,000+

The Koum Family Foundation
Irving and Bernice Levine
Charitable Foundation
Aileen and Brian (A) Roberts
Singer Family Charitable Foundation

\$25,000+

Justine Stamen Arrillaga and John Arrillaga
Bender Foundation, Inc.
Mark Edfort
Scott Gelb (A)
Jonathan Grayer
Harry and Leah Gudelsky Foundation
John R. Levene (A)
Howard Levine Foundation-Howard and
Julie Levine

Michael Magerman and Kelly Greenleaf
Orender Family (A)
Amy and Marc (A) Rosenberg
Schoenbaum Family Foundation
Anonymous

\$10,000+

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Beth and Bill Hicks
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Joel and Tonja Magerman
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Dede Robbins
Ellen and Ron (A) Saslow/ 35 Capital
Emily Schoenbaum
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Rhoda and Chuck Steiner
Geoffrey Thaw and Nancy Jacobs
Barry Waranch and Cindy Nelson
David Warren (A)
Randall (A) and Tamara Winn
Robert Wynner (A)
William B. Yarmuth Family Foundation
Sam and Sheila Zietz
Anonymous

We make every attempt to ensure our donor listing is accurate. If your name is listed incorrectly or missing, please contact the office (maccabi@maccabiusa.com, 215.561.6900).

(A) Athlete

Upcoming Events

Annual Bob Spivak Maccabi USA Philadelphia Golf Tournament

June 3, 2024
Green Valley Country Club



"Beat The Maccabees" LA Golf Outing

June 9, 2024
Heroes Golf Course



European Maccabi Youth Games

July 28 - August 6, 2024
London, England



Maccabi USA Rugby Hall of Fame 2024 Event

August 3, 2024
Chicago, Illinois



Maccabiah 2025

Summer 2025

Israel

